

WARNING TO STOCK MEN

Dreaded Foot and Mouth Disease in Cattle Has Appeared in Seven Central and Eastern States

Millions of cattle on the big ranges of the west and middle west are now in peril from the dreaded foot and mouth disease, which has been discovered in seven states in five days according to Dr. R. A. Ramsey of the national bureau of agriculture. Once the disease reaches the ranges, the expert declares that it will be impossible to stamp it out and it will prove the greatest calamity that America has ever known. The plague has already reached Iowa, if reports are true.

The foot and mouth disease first appeared in Michigan late in October and the infected animals were shipped to the Chicago stockyards. The method of stamping it out is a drastic one. Infected cattle and those that have been exposed in a herd are ordered killed. The most valuable strains must meet the same fate as the common stock.

The United States department of agriculture in co-operation with the veterinary authorities of the states where the disease has made its appearance, are working with tremendous energy to prevent it from spreading further.

The disease spread eastward and south from Chicago, following the trend of the sales of fattened cattle. Chicago is not a feeder market and consequently the disease would not spread west from Chicago. Should it be discovered in Kansas City, St. Joseph and South Omaha, however, cattle men believe it would spread west. These markets sell feeders for western shipment.

Infection comes through the mouth. The well known habit of cattle to browse over feed and feeding grounds of other cattle causes such a disease as this to spread with great rapidity when there are victims among a herd.

At a meeting of the Nebraska sanitary live stock commission Saturday afternoon the action of Chairman J. E. Bulla and State Veterinarian L. C. Kigin requiring railroad companies to clean and disinfect cars in which live stock is shipped was approved and the commission proclaimed all cattle, hogs, and sheep shipped from Chicago into Nebraska since October 1 to be under quarantine.

This was taken as a step in the movement to prevent the spread of the foot and mouth disease into the state of Nebraska. The quarantine was declared upon the request of Chief Melvin of the government department of animal husbandry. If any of the stock shipped from Chicago to Nebraska since October 1 were exposed to infection, the quarantine declared by the state board of Nebraska may serve to confine it to a single herd and it can be controlled. The state board has not yet quarantined against any locality except Chicago, but it has adopted a resolution requiring railroad companies to clean and disinfect cars. The resolution requires the thorough cleaning and disinfecting all empty stock cars now in this state before they can be used for the transportation of live stock.

The refuse material from cars must be burned or otherwise disinfected and all stock cars must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before entering the state. This is not to apply to cars carrying stock now in transit.

When stock is unloaded at any point in Nebraska from stations in any other state, the cars must be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the rules of the government bureau before being reloaded.

These regulations were agreed to Friday at a meeting in South Omaha at which Governor Morehead, representatives of railroad, members of the South Omaha live stock exchange and Chairman Bulla and Secretary Kigin of the state sanitary live stock commission were present. They have now become the rule of the state commission.

State Veterinarian L. C. Kigin has issued a warning to Nebraska stock men to look out for the appearance of the dreaded foot and mouth disease. He describes the symptoms of this and a similar disease so that stockmen may be able to distinguish the more deadly of the two. He also states that dourine, a disease that spreads among horses used for breeding purposes, has appeared in the northwestern part of Nebraska and has issued notice that railroads have been notified by him not to ship horses out of Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine or Cherry counties without a special permit from the state veterinarian's department. The statement issued from the state veterinarian's office is as follows:

"A disease known as foot and mouth disease which is one of the most contagious diseases known among dominant animals has made its appearance in seven of the central and eastern states. Many of the largest stock yards in the United States have been quarantined, even the stock yards in Chicago have been completely closed until November 16. This disease seems to have spread so rapidly that it was beyond the power of government employees to keep it under control. There is no question but what it will cost the states and government millions of dollars before they entirely eradicate this disease. All animals that they find affected with this disease are destroyed and buried deep in lime. A report has been published that this disease has become so severe in St. Joseph county, Indiana, that it will bankrupt it at county, and, no doubt, will work a great hardship upon the state in general if control cannot be made in the very near future. The government station at the South Omaha stock yards has been notified not

to permit any cattle to be shipped out from this point into any quarantined section. At the present time, it is impossible to tell the danger that might be hovering over the state of Nebraska, as this disease could be carried in cars that had previously carried infected cattle. I make an appeal to every stock man and veterinarian in the state of Nebraska to be on the alert and to report any disease that might be even similar to the foot and mouth disease. I wish to state, at this time, that this disease is very contagious to the human family, being transmitted through the drinking of milk.

I want to call attention to the fact that we have a disease known as mycotic stomatitis which has been more or less prevalent in the state of Nebraska for quite a number of years, especially during the months of August, September, October and November. This disease is not contagious or infectious but it is caused by certain fungi on grasses or weeds in pastures. This disease is more prevalent in the clay hill districts of the state but it does occur in some other localities. Occasionally this disease is called foot and mouth disease for the reason that as a rule both mouth and feet are affected, but there is a great difference between this disease and the contagious foot and mouth disease which has been discovered in Chicago stock yards and other eastern states for which a quarantine has been established in several states during the last few days.

The symptoms of these two diseases are somewhat similar. The mycotic stomatitis shows a lesion of the muzzle which appears like it had been burned. This area is confined by a line of demarcation which cracks open, leaving on one side of this line, very prominent lesions and on the other side it is not affected at all. This burned area or this affected area of the muzzle will peel off in about ten or fifteen days. The lesions in the mouth, in this disease, are also very extensive, appearing in the form of blisters at first and later developing into ulcers, causing stuffing of mucous membrane and sometimes the gums are affected to such an extent that the teeth become loosened. The feet are generally affected to some extent but not so much as in foot and mouth disease.

The one particular feature that is characteristic of foot and mouth disease is that the animal is constantly making a smacking noise with its lips. And the saliva discharged is very clear and with the sun's rays on same will give a very glistening appearance, and in mycotic stomatitis the saliva is mixed with mucous and pus which gives it an entirely different appearance. It may be difficult for stockmen to distinguish between the two diseases and therefore I would urge upon all stockmen to notify L. C. Kigin, deputy state veterinarian, Lincoln, Nebr., of any disease affecting the mouth and feet of cattle at this time so that same may be investigated immediately.

A disease known as dourine, which is peculiar to stallions and mares, has made its appearance in the vicinity of Hecla, Nebr. This disease was imported by some horses that were shipped in from the state of Wyoming. The government notified this department of this shipment of suspicious animals after they had tested several of the remaining animals in the state of Wyoming. The test they made in Wyoming showed that several were affected with the disease. They detailed a man to assist Dr. Kigin to take blood from 113 head in the vicinity of Hecla and same was sent to Washington for test. The results of this test showed that five mares were affected with the disease and five mares and one stallion suspicious. The railroad companies have been notified not to accept any more horses for shipment out of Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine and Cherry counties unless they receive a special permit first from this department. The stallion inspectors who have been sent out by the stallion registration board, report that they have found no suspicious looking animals from a clinical standpoint. However, they are being notified to draw blood from any stallion that shows the least suspicion and send same to Washington for test. This territory has been covered this fall by stallion inspectors but as a part of the stallion owners were unable to bring their stallions to the different stations and towns where inspectors were detailed, it will be necessary for this route to be gone over the second time. By so doing, will give an additional opportunity to make a closer investigation concerning this disease.

Rigid Stock Inspection
Cheyenne, Wyo., Nov. 6.—Gov. J. M. Carey, in a proclamation tonight, forbid the shipment into the state of cattle, sheep or hogs from points east of the eastern boundary of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. He ordered a rigid inspection of all stock within the state for mouth and hoof disease to be undertaken immediately.

Still Under Quarantine
Chicago, Nov. 11.—The Chicago stock yards are still under quarantine, but the work of disinfecting and cleaning up has been practically completed. It is believed that officials of the yards will ask for a lifting of the quarantine not later than Thursday.

NOTICE
All customers who are more than one quarter behind on their water bills or more than one month behind on their light bills will have to make settlement by Nov. 22, 1914, or service will be discontinued without further notice.

You are further notified that service will be discontinued on all light bills not settled by the 30th of each month, and all water bills not settled by the 30th of January, April, July and October.

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